



Restoring Working Waterfronts

Species Impacted:
Salmon, Steelhead, Insects and
Other Arthropods



Overview

Long Live the Kings (LLTK) is leading a new partnership with Nucor Steel Seattle and the University of Washington (UW) to restore functional habitat along the General Recycling of Washington's Duwamish River shoreline.

This project will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of creating estuary habitat for juvenile salmon along working shorelines and will build upon a growing dataset in the Lower Duwamish River. The partnership among LLTK, Nucor, and UW represents continued cross-sector collaboration to support the economy and the environment.

Humans and Nature Benefiting Together

Working waterways are essential to our economy and critical to the native species that have relied on these systems long before industrialization. By integrating habitat restoration alongside industrial activities, we can address both priorities. After decades as an industrial scrap yard, the stretch of the Lower Duwamish River at the General Recycling of Washington facility has been transformed into nearly three acres of new salmon habitat.

This habitat will provide refuge areas and food sources for wildlife and various fish species, including juvenile salmon migrating from upriver spawning areas. This project showcases the continued progress in reversing the damage done by years of pollution and destructive land use in the Lower Duwamish River.



Project Impacts

2.79 acres
New and
Protected Habitat

9,805 cubic yd
Contaminated
Sediment Removed

390 ft
Armored Shoreline
Removed



Why This Stretch of the Duwamish Matters

There is a dire need for habitat to support young Chinook salmon in the Duwamish River. The Lower Duwamish is one of the most industrialized rivers in the Pacific Northwest and almost all of its historic marsh and mudflat habitat has been lost to development over the last century.

Unlike Chinook populations with intact estuary habitat, few young fry that migrate downriver and to the Duwamish estuary early on in life end up growing and surviving to adulthood.

Habitat Connectivity

The project connects to existing restored habitat at the adjacent Port of Seattle Terminal 105 Park (known as *tuʔəlatxw* “toolalt”) to the north, creating a connected corridor of refuge for fish along one of the most industrialized stretches of the river. Habitat connectivity matters. A single isolated patch of habitat is helpful, but a linked corridor is much more impactful. Continuous habitat in an estuary allows salmon to move, feed, shelter, and adapt to changing conditions throughout their transition from freshwater to the ocean.

Project Phases & Timeline

Construction
July 2025

Restoration Complete
April 2026

Post-Restoration Monitoring
2027 to 2036

Post-Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring

Estuarine and shoreline habitats are dynamic environments. Salmon populations naturally vary year to year, and new restoration sites take time to establish.

As the new habitat matures, our team will monitor site effectiveness through fish and insect presence, fish condition, salmon diet contents, and benthic invertebrates in the new sediments to highlight and document the environmental contribution and provide valuable data to improve continued salmon recovery efforts.

Before



During Construction



After



Project Partners

NUCOR®
SEATTLE

FLOYD | SNIDER
strategy • science • engineering

W COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Project Lead

Jayde Essex, Science Project Manager

📞 206.382.9555 x26

🌐 www.lltk.org/restoring-working-waterfronts

✉ jessex@lltk.org